



A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
 Editors: Maria Pena and Dr. Patrick McConney

Our new CERMES Director

By David Yawson



CERMES is pleased to introduce you to our new CERMES Director, Dr. David Yawson who assumed his new role on 1 August 2021 and will be at the helm until 2024. David has a background in

agriculture and environmental management. He has expertise in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing, agri-food systems analysis, and land and water management.

Below is his first contribution to the CERMES Connections in his new leading role in which he shares his vision and hope for the Department over the next few years.

On behalf of CERMES, I want to thank Dr Patrick McConney for the excellent service and steady leadership he provided as CERMES Director from 2018 to 2021. He could aptly be described as the Pandemic Director as his tenure witnessed the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but he successfully steered CERMES out of the chaos and the uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic has robustly tested the resilience of The University of the West Indies and CERMES. In the face of massive disruptions in regular processes and operations, overstretched resources, and a highly dynamic environment, CERMES has survived and remains agile. This proven resilience has been the combined result of supportive partners and alumni, dedicated staff and students working together with unity of purpose, depriving themselves of leisure and

Inside this issue

Our new CERMES Director	1
Finishing projects, starting sabbatical	2
CERMES-CANARI MOU	2
CERMES-BETRI sign MOU	2
CPAG Directory of Experts	3
IUCN World Conservation Congress	3
Estimating Sargassum abundance with drone intel	4
In Memoriam: Remembering Euna Moore	4

rest to ensure that the quality and integrity of CERMES remain intact. New ways of delivering courses, conducting research, and engaging stakeholders were developed and reflexively adjusted, provisions and new accommodations were made for those who had technical challenges, hidden inner strengths were harnessed, and a new ray of hope emerged from the horizon of uncertainty.

We will continue to ride on the crest of this hope to maintain the quality and reputation of CERMES, foster a congenial environment for a rich teaching and learning experience (both virtually and physically), and deliver the promise of CERMES. Obviously, no institution will undergo such a test of strength and emerge the same. Transformation becomes an indispensable component of the response. The pandemic is still active and there is more to do to remain afloat. As a result, the transformation of CERMES remains active and necessary to deliver agile and resilient responses to the rapidly changing circumstances. This means CERMES is consolidating its historical gains, continuously learning, and streamlining its assets, capacities, and partners to remain resilient in these challenging times.

As a necessary part of this transformation, CERMES will seek to review its teaching program(s) to capture emerging interests, evaluate modes of delivery and flexible access options, deepen relations with traditional partners and actively seek new ones, and pursue revenue-generation opportunities. In this connection, I

For more information contact:

CERMES, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, St. Michael, Barbados

Phone: (246) 417-4316 Fax: (246) 424-4204;

cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu; www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes

am happy to announce that the new specialisation in Land Management and Environmental Resilience will start this academic year. An MSc Sustainable Energy Management program is also on the horizon. Hopefully, these additions to the CERMES offering provide expanded access to several terrestrial resource and energy practitioners, and many others who had wished to be part of the CERMES family and experience. These programs have been developed with a firm belief that land and energy management are pivotal to a sustainable transition of the Caribbean.

I am hopeful that CERMES will continue to benefit from the unflinching support and goodwill of our alumni, partners, students, and staff. Let us know your thoughts about CERMES. Let us hear of opportunities you become aware of. Let us hear about your exploits and achievements. Let us know how CERMES can help. With our faith undiminished by the current circumstances, let us pull together to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead. Help CERMES soar and thrive.

Finishing projects, starting sabbatical

By Patrick McConney

Following a 3-year term as Director of CERMES, Patrick McConney is on sabbatical before returning to his substantive post of Senior Lecturer in August 2022. A sabbatical is an exciting period for study, and for exploring more of both existing as well as emerging academic interests. It comes after a hectic few final months of finishing CERMES projects on climate change, gender and stewardship in fisheries. The projects, done in partnership and with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, have produced a large number of reports, videos, social media communications and other outputs that we aim to share more widely in the future. The sabbatical will provide an opportunity to pull together some of this work and look towards new areas of collaboration with our many partners.

CERMES-CANARI MOU

By Maria Pena

As of 21 July 2021, CERMES now has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to reflect our close collaboration and partnerships over the decades as well

as our shared commitment to continue institutionalising participatory natural resource management in the Caribbean, from policy and planning through to everyday practices. The MOU outlines several areas of cooperation of interest to both organisations including biodiversity and ecosystems, equity and justice, participatory governance, resilience building, innovation, and applied research. This MOU solidifies our long history of collaboration, with both entities looking forward to enhancing our partnership and collaboration through this arrangement. We are excited to be in this together!



CERMES – EETRI (Waseda University, Japan) sign MOU

By David Yawson



CERMES and the Energy and Environment Technology Research Institute (EETRI), a venture company of the Waseda University in Japan, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on various activities aimed at strengthening capacity and promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy transition in the Caribbean. Among other things, the MOU creates the framework for exchange of knowledge and technology between partners, training and education, joint events, research, and working with national and regional governments and businesses in relation to power grid modelling and analysis. This MOU was signed within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Energy Efficiency in Caribbean countries under the aegis of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The image

For more information contact:

CERMES, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, St. Michael, Barbados

Phone: (246) 417-4316 Fax: (246) 424-4204;

cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu; www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes



above shows participants from JICA (Mr. Masaaki Ebina, Nippon Koei, Mr. Hiroaki Niimi), EETRI (Dr. Ryuichi Yokoyama – President and CEO, Dr. Junichi Arai – Executive Engineer, Dr. Zhou Yicheng – Chief Engineer, Mr. Yasu Taguchi – Chief Engineer, and Ms. Akiko Fujiwara – Director of International Business Development Department) and CERMES (Dr. David Yawson – Director) in a discussion on the MOU. The meeting was convened by Mr. Alex Harewood and facilitated by Danielle Evanson (CERMES PhD candidate).

Finding and connecting with experts just got a lot easier

By Jay Belmar

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) is pleased to present its Directory of Experts (DoE).



The DoE is a publicly available tool designed to connect conservation practitioners, governments, and potential collaborators from research institutions and organizations across the globe and thematic areas with each other. The Directory hosts a diverse listing of individual experts and currently includes 51 areas of expertise. Users can filter and search across several fields provided for each expert.

Whether you are searching for technical advice, collaborations with distant colleagues, or simply seeking support, the DoE makes it easy to connect.

Visit:

<https://caribbeanprotectedareasgateway.com/search-for-an-expert/>

The CPAG is also excited to announce -- *in addition to its refreshed website* -- its new social media profiles on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. You will find stories, videos, upcoming events, new resources, training opportunities, industry news, and more on the social media pages.

The CPAG would love to connect with you. You can find them at:

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/theCPAG>
- **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/the_cpag/
- **YouTube Channel:** [cpagmedia](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpAgmedia)

IUCN World Conservation Congress

By CPAG team

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) hosted an event titled, 'Translating Data to Decisions – the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway and the State of Protected and Conserved Areas in the Wider Caribbean' at the Vital Sites for a Protected Planet Pavilion at the [IUCN World Conservation Congress \(WCC\)](#). Various features and functionalities of the CPAG that demonstrate how data can support decisions were highlighted. Please click [here](#) for an account of the event.



CPAG representatives also co-facilitated the Thematic Session entitled: Show Me the Money: Innovations in Financing and Resourcing of Protected and Conserved Areas in which Karen MacDonald-Gayle (Caribbean Biodiversity Fund) and Nicolas Pascal (Blue Finance) were two of six speakers from the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions who shared experiences in sustainable finance to a global audience. Access to the video recorded session is available [here](#).

Several activities and events related to governance, protected areas, financial systems, and the impacts on conservation were coordinated by the BIOPAMA programme and supported by CPAG representatives. Access to these and other recorded sessions in the [Vital Sites](#) pavilion will be shared later.

The WCC, held in Marseille from 3 to 11 September 2021, is where the world comes together to shape new policies, engage decision-makers, elevate ambitions, set priorities and drive conservation and sustainable development action. It was the first hybrid (in-person and virtual) environmental event since the pandemic began and its outcomes will impact future meetings such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP-15 in Kunming, China

For more information contact:

CERMES, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, St. Michael, Barbados

Phone: (246) 417-4316 Fax: (246) 424-4204;

cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu; www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes

Sargassum abundance and drone intelligence

By Kimberly Baldwin



Since 2019 CERMES has been working under the 'SargAdapt' Project to manage the [impacts of and improve adaptation to sargassum influxes](#) across the Caribbean. With piles of beached sargassum up to three metres

high, these rotting masses pose a health hazard to the coastal marine ecosystem (seagrasses, coral reefs and mangroves), coastal livelihoods and beach visitors alike. To inform [clean-up operations](#) and [attract business entrepreneurs](#) to take up the challenge of valorising sargassum, it is critical to be able to accurately measure and monitor the amount raw material available. Moreover, if the sargassum could be harvested while still fresh, it could become part of the [\\$13 billion](#) global commercial seaweed market, thereby helping to offset the losses in tourism and fishery revenues, critical to livelihoods in the Caribbean.

Recognising the sensitivity of removal operations, Dr. Kimberly Baldwin set out to create a standardised drone surveying and spatial estimation workflow that could be easily applied to quickly quantify the amount of beached sargassum by SargAdapt drone teams working across the Caribbean. As a 'Drones for Good' Partner, Kim enlisted the support of [DroneDeploy](#), the world's largest drone survey and mapping company, to provide SargAdapt teams with drone software support for the developed [Drone Sargassum Monitoring Protocol](#). Over the next year of the project, Kim will continue to work with CERMES to create a User's Guide for the SargAdapt Drone Monitoring Protocol and will be conducting training exercises across the eastern Caribbean in its use. Stay tuned for more!

The research was showcased at this year's DroneDeploy conference and a blog-post release:

<https://www.dronedeploy.com/resources/stories/drone-mapping-in-the-caribbean/>

In Memoriam: CERMES statement on the passing of Prof. Euna Moore

By David Yawson

Today, CERMES acknowledges with deep sorrow the passing of Prof. Euna Moore, our former Director and colleague, an outstanding personality who made enduring contributions to CERMES and the Cave Hill Campus.

Euna was a marine scientist with broad interests in biology and environmental science. As the first female marine scientist in a leadership role at the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Euna Moore certainly left a lasting legacy. She was known by generations of students for her strict adherence to discipline and diligence. Her visionary life and leadership, and unique contributions are verifiable today. As the first Head of the Biology Department of the then Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences (now Faculty of Science and Technology), Euna initiated, designed, and created the Biology Park, adjacent to which CERMES' current home would later be built. She was the founding Director of CERMES in the 1980s, a feat that could only be accomplished by an action-driven vision at a time when environmental science was not on the minds of many persons at the Cave Hill Campus. From that pioneering context, Euna diligently and carefully nurtured and steered the affairs of a young CERMES to a full-fledged Centre of Excellence. Euna created a firm foundation on which CERMES still thrives. She imbued CERMES with character and a fundamental forward thrust that shaped, and now underpins, the resilience and progress of CERMES today. Her pioneering contributions to teaching and supervision of the first PhD students at Cave Hill, added to the extensive roots and impacts of CERMES in the Caribbean. For these, CERMES and all its staff, students, alumni, and friends are deeply thankful to Euna. We extend our collective condolences to the family and friends of Euna. She will always be remembered.

May her gallant soul rest in peace!



For more information contact:

CERMES, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, St. Michael, Barbados

Phone: (246) 417-4316 Fax: (246) 424-4204;

cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu; www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes

